



**Maricopa County**  
*Animal Care and Control*

# LOVE YOUR DOG LICENSE YOUR DOG



Thousands of pets find their way to Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (MCACC) each year without any form of identification. Unfortunately, without identification we are unable to reunite them with their families. Purchasing a dog license every year will ensure that your dog can be returned home quickly and safely.

## **WHO NEEDS A MARICOPA COUNTY DOG LICENSE?**

The law requires that all dogs over the age of three months have a license and rabies vaccination (the vaccination must be administered by a licensed veterinarian). The law covers all of unincorporated Maricopa County, Maricopa County, the town of Queen Creek and all other municipalities within Maricopa County, with the exception of Fountain Hills and Native American reservations. An application for a license must be made within 15 days of vaccination. Residents new to Maricopa County and new dog owners must purchase a dog license within 30 days. A penalty fee will be assessed for late applications. The term of the license is based on the month and day of the most current rabies vaccination recorded at MCACC and is valid for one calendar year.

## **SHOULD I LICENSE MY CAT?**

The state of Arizona does not require cats to be licensed, but getting an id tag for your cat is a good idea. A lost cat with an id tag has a better chance of being returned to its guardian.

## **HOW DOES A LICENSE BENEFIT MY DOG AND ME?**

- Peace of mind that you and your found dog can be reunited quickly.
- Your lost dog gets a free ride home. MCACC staff will attempt to bring your dog home to you immediately, saving you a trip to our Center.
- If your dog is licensed, the first 24 hours at our center are free. Licensed dogs that are impounded will be returned without charge to their owners within the first 24 hours of impoundment.
- Your dog gets a longer care period at MCACC centers. We will exhaust every option we have to contact you using the information in our database, as well as provide this information to Pets 911.
- If your dog bites someone, he/she may be eligible for home quarantine instead of quarantine in our facility or a veterinary hospital.
- License fees support the return of over 6,500 pets to their homes and adoption of 20,000 homeless pets to new families every year. Other services funded by dog licenses are spay/neuter programs to reduce pet overpopulation and community education services.
- Possible home quarantine for minor dog bites. This is determined by the MCACC Field Officer on a case-by-case basis.

For more information on animal care, behavior or MCACC programs, contact  
(602) 506-PETS or visit [pets.maricopa.gov](http://pets.maricopa.gov)  
Excerpts from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Cats International.

### **HOW CAN I LICENSE MY DOG?**

In order to license your dog you must have proof of a rabies vaccination. MCACC offers rabies vaccinations for \$34. You can also obtain a rabies vaccination for your dog from a private veterinarian.

Mail. You can download an application on line at [www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov) and mail to:  
Maricopa County Animal Care & Control  
Licensing Division  
P.O. Box 52887  
Phoenix, AZ 85072

In Person. You can also buy a dog pet license in person at any MCACC animal care center.

Phone or On-line. License renewals that do not require your dog to have a booster vaccination may be done over the phone or on-line. The on-line and mailed instructions are printed on the renewal form. If you have misplaced your renewal form or didn't receive one, you may call 602-506-PETS for further instruction.

### **HOW MUCH DOES A LICENSE COST?**

(all fees are subject to change)

Dog licenses cost \$16 for sterile dogs and \$40 for unaltered dogs and need to be renewed each year. Late fees are \$2 a month for sterile dogs and \$4 a month for unaltered dogs. MCACC now offers a senior discount to people who are 65 or better. The senior citizen fee is \$6. However there is a two pet maximum for this discount.

### **WHAT ARE ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF PROOF THAT MY DOG HAS BEEN SPAYED OR NEUTERED?**

- A sterilization certificate from the veterinarian who performed the surgery or examined your dog to verify the surgery.
- Previous license information showing spay/neuter status.

### **IS YOUR DOG KEPT INDOORS OR IN A FENCED YARD?**

All dogs need to be licensed so they have identification in case they get out or become lost, and, it's the law. Cats should have id tags. Even indoor-only pets can get loose. A license (or tag) helps assure that you can be reunited with your pet.

### **HAS YOUR DOG LOST ITS LICENSE?**

If your dog loses his license during the license year, you may purchase a replacement for \$4. If you are mailing in your payment, you do not need to complete a Dog License Application/Renewal form. Just enclose your check with a short note stating that your dog lost its license and include the tag number from your receipt. If you can't locate your receipt, make sure you include your name, address, phone number, and the dog's name and description in the note.

### **DID YOU ADOPT A LICENSED DOG?**

If you adopted a currently licensed dog from its owner, you do not have to purchase a new license. Simply apply for a transfer of ownership at any of our Centers or by mail. To apply, send a written and signed request, the original license receipt, and a \$4 transfer fee to:

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control  
Licensing Division  
PO Box 52887  
Phoenix, AZ 85072

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY DOG WAS VACCINATED IN ANOTHER STATE OR COUNTY?**

If your dog was vaccinated outside of Maricopa County, you will need to obtain a Maricopa County license. You may call 602-506-PETS for further instruction.